

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An ultrasonic probe, comprising:

a probe chassis comprising an insertion portion and a grip portion formed integrally with each other;

an insertion portion having a storage portion disposed at a foremost end, the storage portion comprising:

an ultrasonic element for transmitting and receiving ultrasonic waves, which is disposed at the tip portion of the insertion portion;

a pressurized sound window formed of the probe chassis at the insertion portion, enclosing the ultrasonic element;

a barrier layer on an internal wall surface of the sound window;

a pipe disposed inside the probe chassis from the insertion portion to the grip portion, in communication to an area enclosed by the sound window;

a grip portion attached to the insertion portion distal from the foremost end of the insertion portion,

an elastic reserve tank having a wall disposed inside the probe chassis at a wall of the grip portion, in communication with the pipe; and

a charged sound propagation liquid in an area enclosed by the sound window, in the pipe and inside and in communication with the elastic reserve tank; and

a barrier layer on an internal wall surface of the sound window

wherein the wall of the elastic reserve tank is separate from the internal wall of the probe chassis at the grip portion; and

the elastic reserve tank absorbs changes of pressure of the charged sound propagation liquid in the area enclosed by the sound window to maintain the pressure within and shape of the sound window.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein the barrier layer comprises at least one selected from a polyparaxylylene layer and a metal layer.

4. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a polyparaxylylene layer and the layer thickness of the polyparaxylylene layer is in the range from 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Previously Presented) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a polyparaxylylene layer formed by a chemical vapor deposition of diparaxylylene or a derivative thereof.

6. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a metal layer and the metal layer comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminum, gold, nickel and platinum.

7. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a metal layer and the thickness of the metal layer is in the range from 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. (Previously Presented) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 3, wherein the barrier layer comprises a plurality of layers.